Another letter from Revd Phyl
June 2025



SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD,
FALL AFRESH ON ME.
SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD,
FALL AFRESH ON ME.
BREAK ME , MELT ME,
MOULD ME, FILL ME.
SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD,
FALL AFRESH ON ME.

Dear friends at Greasby,

As you can see from the picture Whimbrel is afloat and racing. here she is heading up towards Liverpool on the Wirral side of the river. The spire that can be seen is that of St James in New Brighton.



Thankfully, after being placed on the water, the planks have taken up and she is not leaking.

She has taken place in 3 races to date and come 4th twice and 7th and last in the other race. In each of these races, there has been a particular Methodist element in the competition.



Pochard is about to be launched for the season and is having a bottle of Prosecco poured over her bow as tradition dictates. The owner and helm of Pochard and his family are connected with Claremount Methodist Church.

This creates an extra element to the racing. The boat from which Methodist Church will win?

At the moment, Heswall/Greasby/ Irby is beating Claremount 2 to 1.

This reminds me of how varied a group the sailors in Wallasey Yacht Club are, from all sorts of different backgrounds and ages just as the Church draws people together from diverse backgrounds.

Each create a community of like-minded individuals working together for a common purpose.

In the case of Wallasey Yacht Club to maintain a historic fleet of racing yachts not just as museum pieces but as boats to be raced.

In the case of Greasby Methodist, what is our common purpose? There would appear to be quite a range of activities that we are involved in. The member of the Yacht Club also enjoy playing snooker and fishing and riding motorbikes but the heart of what they are doing is the sailing of the historic yachts.

What are the core activities of Greasby Methodist Church?

I believe that there are three key activities that lie behind all that we do in Greasby Methodist Church, These may be summarised in a single statement. Our purpose is to provide a regular heartbeat of Worship, Prayer and Service in the Community of which we are part.

Have you noticed how busy the world around us has become? More and more demands are being made upon us from all sorts of different directions and there seems to be less time to give to some of the activities we did in the past.

This is nothing new for John Wesley comments "some of you have stopped meeting" in his book of sermons in the 1760s when he talked about those who had previously been involved in Methodist meetings or activities ceasing to participate in them.

People turned away from the Methodist Church when the demands of being a member began to ask too much from them. In some cases, they were persecuted for being Methodists; their landlords threatening them with eviction if they remained in the Methodist Church; for others they were loath to have to change their way of life. For others they were blown backwards and forwards between different religious leaders of the time for they never settled as a member of an organised community or group which would help them and encourage them.

One of the most precious gifts we have been given is that of time. This is something that can be used in a myriad of ways but can only be used once for it can never be re-lived.

In Ecclesiastes, we are reminded that there is "a time and a place for everything under heaven".

How are we using our time to work together to maintain that regular heartbeat of Worship, Prayers and Service in our day to day lives as individuals and as the members of Heswall Methodist Church?

Pentecost is at the beginning of June. This is the moment we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirt upon the people of God. in the stories of the disciples, this is the pivotal moment that changed them from the chaos and the disappointment following the death of Christ, through the incredible moments surrounding His resurrection to being spiritually empowered to step out in faith in new and powerful ways to proclaim the Good News that "God is with us".

They stepped out in faith and they called people together to be the Church. This was not without problems and risk but these were not allowed to divert them from their task.

When faced with what would seem insurmountable problems, they continued to worship God, to pray together and to serve their communities. They had their priorities right.



In this third picture, here is Whimbrel (32) chasing Cormorant (9). Before we had even started this race we had history together. Whimbrel had a problem with the setting of the sail. Cormorant had the right of way and had assumed that Whimbrel would get out of the way but she did not with the result that there was a collision between the boats. Fortunately, no damage was done. The helm of Whimbrel acknowledged the failing and accepted the penalty for causing a collision which meant circling around once and losing some distance in the race. Ten seconds later, Whimbrel just touched the buoy marking the end of the starting line thus incurring a further 360 degree turn and recrossing the starting line before getting back into the race now some eight minutes behind the leading boat.

Over the next hour, Whimbrel moved up from 7th and last to crossing the line in 4th place. In spite of getting things completely wrong twice, she was able to continue and play her part in the race.

In church life, things can and do go wrong. That should not stop us from doing what we are called to do: to maintain that heartbeat of worship, prayer and service in the community in which we live.

This Pentecost let us seek that renewing by the Spirit to enable each of us individually and collectively together to take our part in the race that is life.

God bless,

Phyl